

Focus on 5th



News and Events in the 5th Grade
October 4, 2010
www.op97.org

Important Dates

Oct. 11	No School
Oct. 15	Unit 2 math test
Oct. 18-22	Conferences
Oct. 18-22	Scholastic Book Fair
Oct. 21	BRAVO Walking Field Trip
Oct. 29	Bowling Field Trip

Dear Families,

Last Friday each student wrote down their guilders account balance in their planners. This is the total amount of guilders your child has earned up to this point in the year. Each student should have close to 150 guilders to be "on-track" to earning the 300 guilders they will need to attend the bowling field trip on October 29th. There are still plenty of opportunities to earn guilders, but if a student does not have the required 300, they will not be able to attend the trip. Please contact your child's teacher if you have further questions.

If you haven't done so already, please contact your child's homeroom teacher (preferably by e-mail) listing your **top 3 preferred times**. You can view the available conference times on the 5th Grade Wiki (www.holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com). We will make every effort to schedule your conference during one of your preferred times and then we will confirm your conference time with you.

Reading Olympics will begin soon. The first competition will be at Holmes School on November 22nd. Please have your student see Ms. Manuel if they are interested in forming a team.

On the wiki under the newsletter tab is a letter from the Oak Park Education Foundation. They are looking for parent volunteers to participate in their many programs this year. Mr. McCauley will be the Teacher Link to the Oak Park Education Foundation this year if you have any further questions.

SPECIALS

Music

September's music blog entry is in! Go to <https://sites.google.com/a/op97.org/holmes-music/home>. In the next few weeks, there will be audio clips of recorder songs on the site as well.

Spanish

Check out the Spanish blog for the fifth grade's current story. Students can receive 10 extra credit points for reading it to someone! <http://mpoleski.blogspot.com/p/quintofifth.html>

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack**
For School and District Forms
<http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>



Reading/Literature

Our focus this week is on learning the difference between retelling and summarizing. Students will be practicing how to write summaries for both fiction and nonfiction texts. During workshop students will be completing an interactive plot diagram on the Read, Write, Think website as well as creating pages to add to a collaborative Pollution vocabulary book. I will also be showing all students how to go to the Lexile website, look up book titles which fall under their lexile range and create their own personal booklists. The site is <http://www.lexile.com/fab/> if you'd like to visit it.

Math

Graded quizzes taken last Friday were returned to students today. This week we will be focusing on division. We will review the partial quotients algorithm for division. For an explanation of this division method, see the Student Reference book or the 5th grade wiki. The unit test on computation will be next Friday, October 15.

Science

This week we will be talking about different types of water pollution. We will be discussing issues like oil spills and how that affects the water and animals. We will also be trying to come up with solutions to help keep our water clean.

Social Studies

Did you know that Christopher Columbus never sat for a portrait? The paintings we have are from descriptions alone. Last week students sketched their idea of Columbus and discussed a few facts and differing perspectives of heroic explorers. On Friday, we began an individual research project. Each student has been assigned an explorer and we will work on a paper and presentation. Students will benefit from additional work on this project outside of class.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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